

**TITLE OF REPORT: High Needs Block Strategic Review**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Schools Forum of the strategic review of the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

**Background**

2. In December 2016 the Department for Education provided all Local Authorities with a High Needs Strategic Planning Fund to enable them to undertake a strategic review of the use of high needs funding. This review should incorporate the planning of special provision and the fund can be used to help implement the outcomes of the reviews.
3. A core officer group has been formed to undertake the review with the possibility of other officers and stakeholders being invited to join as appropriate.
4. All areas of spend from the high needs block will be reviewed, starting with the highest area of spend which includes special schools, the Behaviour Support Service and high needs top up funding.
5. Initial discussions have already started with special schools around post 16 provision and the number of hours that will be commissioned in the future.
6. Regular updates from the review will be brought to Schools Forum together with proposals and consultation information.

**Proposal**

7. It is proposed that Schools Forum notes that an officer group has been formed to undertake a strategic review of the high needs block and that regular updates, proposals and consultation information will be the subject of future reports to Schools Forum.

**Recommendation**

8. It is recommended that Schools Forum notes that a strategic review of the high needs block has commenced and information, proposals and any consultation information will be the subject of future reports to Schools Forum.

**For the following reason(s):**

- To ensure that Schools Forum is informed of the progress and proposals of the strategic review of the high needs block of the DSG.